

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Dennis Kostick, Soda Ash Commodity Specialist

U.S. Geological Survey

983 National Center

Reston, VA 20192

Telephone: (703) 648-7715, Fax: (703) 648-7722

E-mail: dkostick@usgs.gov

Jeff Milanovich (Data)

Telephone: (703) 648-7982

Fax: (703) 648-7975

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

SODA ASH IN OCTOBER 2002

Natural soda ash production in October was 870,000 metric tons, 2% higher than the previous month's production, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were 213,000 tons, 7% lower than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in October was 1.15 million tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in September was 481,000

tons, 2% lower than the September 2001 level of 492,000 tons. Exports and imports of soda ash in September 2002 were 370,000 tons and 837 tons, respectively.

The trends in cumulative soda ash statistics through September 2002, compared with those of 2001, were as follows: production was slightly higher, imports 79% lower, exports 2% lower, ending stocks 8% lower, and apparent consumption 1% higher.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production 2/	Ending stocks	
2001:			
September	814	248	1,290
October	880	217	1,430
November	852	162	1,360
December	870	226	1,420
Total (January-October)	8,620	XX	12,600
Year total	10,300	XX	15,400
2002:			
January	856	262	1,430
February	775	245	1,210
March	885	244	1,370
April	829	202	1,300
May	917	212	1,330
June	842	236	1,130
July	898	227	956
August	895	226	1,260
September	853	228	1,260
October	870	213	1,150
Total	8,620	XX	12,400

XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Production data includes soda ash equivalent from soda liquors only. Soda ash equivalent from mine water is not included. Soda liquors are withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

TABLE 2
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN SEPTEMBER 2002 1/ 2/

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value 3/ (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	79,100	\$8,730	\$110
Canada	37,300	2,890	78
Brazil	26,200	3,930	150
Chile	24,000	3,490	146
Korea, Republic of	21,100	2,400	114
Australia	19,500	2,460	126
Indonesia	19,000	2,420	127
Japan	18,500	2,120	114
Belgium	17,100	2,300	134
Taiwan	15,500	1,780	115
Other	93,100	11,900	128
Total	370,000	44,400	120

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ October 2002 data were not available at time of publication.

3/ Free alongside ship (f.a.s.) value at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN 2002 1/ 2/

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	Total	% of total
Argentina	8,760	--	9,270	27,500	14,400	13,000	9,980	--	10,900	93,700	3
Australia	7,020	7,010	9,660	13,200	7,040	--	7,010	--	19,500	70,500	2
Belgium	25,000	--	--	35,300	25,000	--	--	10,800	17,100	113,000	4
Brazil	25,800	--	25,800	10,000	52,600	--	32,900	--	26,200	173,000	6
Canada	42,700	31,700	42,500	38,000	32,600	40,200	42,400	38,900	37,300	346,000	11
Chile	--	20,800	--	19,600	28,500	24,500	--	--	24,000	117,000	4
China	10,500	6,500	25,000	17,300	9,500	55,100	33,000	35,000	11,800	204,000	7
Colombia	--	11,700	11,500	10,800	10,800	--	12,100	--	11,000	68,000	2
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	3,000	3,000	--	--	3,000	9,000	(3/)
Ecuador	--	--	4,370	--	--	--	6,500	--	--	10,900	(3/)
Finland	--	17	--	--	--	--	--	17	--	34	(3/)
France	--	7,500	10,000	--	10,000	--	7,550	11,500	--	46,600	2
Germany	19	--	--	19	--	--	--	--	--	38	(3/)
Guatemala	--	--	--	5,000	3,500	3,000	--	--	5,500	17,000	1
Indonesia	21,500	19,000	19,000	23,000	19,000	16,500	--	14,900	19,000	152,000	5
Italy	--	--	--	10,100	--	--	--	--	--	10,100	(3/)
Japan	46,800	58,100	32,300	33,600	20,600	27,600	50,500	27,600	18,500	316,000	10
Korea, Republic of	14,000	19,200	12,500	15,200	14,600	14,300	18,600	20,200	21,100	150,000	5
Malaysia	--	5,000	19,900	--	16,000	4,000	13,500	4,970	12,000	75,400	2
Mexico	56,900	39,800	37,300	27,500	50,000	61,200	66,800	39,400	79,100	458,000	15
New Zealand	--	4,970	--	--	7,520	--	--	--	--	12,500	(3/)
Nigeria	--	3,890	--	--	--	--	--	2,920	--	6,810	(3/)
Panama	--	--	--	1,990	20	--	2,000	--	--	4,010	(3/)
Peru	--	2,300	--	2,000	3,500	2,000	--	--	2,700	12,500	(3/)
Philippines	8,700	--	9,000	9,000	--	7,200	10,000	--	10,200	54,100	2
Portugal	8,280	--	--	--	--	7,460	--	--	--	15,700	1
Saudi Arabia	--	14,000	14,000	12,000	12,000	10,000	--	12,000	--	74,000	2
South Africa	--	--	--	--	6,070	6,070	--	6,560	6,500	25,200	1
Spain	5,000	14,100	--	--	--	--	11,900	8,000	--	39,000	1
Taiwan	20,000	10,000	10,500	10,200	17,000	13,200	14,000	12,000	15,500	122,000	4
Thailand	11,100	10,200	10,000	11,300	11,200	11,200	10,900	31,500	11,500	119,000	4
Trinidad and Tobago	2,820	--	--	--	--	2,800	--	2,800	--	8,420	(3/)
United Arab Emirates	--	--	7,000	4,000	--	7,000	--	7,000	--	25,000	1
United Kingdom	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3	(3/)
Venezuela	17,100	--	26,100	19,900	9,830	--	14,800	19,500	--	107,000	3
Vietnam	--	--	7,000	--	--	--	--	--	8,000	15,000	(3/)
Total	332,000	286,000	343,000	357,000	384,000	329,000	364,000	306,000	370,000	3,070,000	100

-- Zero.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ October 2002 data were not available at time of publication.

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH 1/ 2/

Period	Quantity (metric tons)	Value 3/ (thousands)
2001:		
September	1,800	\$239
October	1,350	186
November	788	114
December	474	82
Total (January-September)	30,800	3,680
Year total	33,400	4,060
2002:		
January	746	130
February	436	128
March	875	177
April	1,110	221
May	991	216
June	639	118
July	779	181
August	538	152
September	837	202
Total	6,950	1,530

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ October 2002 data were not available at time of publication.

3/ Customs, insurance, and freight (c.i.f) value at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
U.S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH 1/

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Imports	Exports	Net stock		Apparent consumption 2/
				Increase	Decrease	
2001:						
September	814,000	1,800	297,000	26,600	--	492,000
October	880,000	1,350	320,000	--	31,000	593,000
November	852,000	788	381,000	--	54,700	527,000
December	870,000	474	250,000	64,000	--	556,000
Total (January-September)	7,740,000	30,800	3,140,000	3,350	--	4,630,000
Year total	10,300,000	33,400	4,090,000	--	18,400	6,300,000
2002:						
January	856,000	746	332,000	35,300	--	490,000
February	775,000	436	286,000	--	16,900	507,000
March	885,000	875	343,000	--	1,010	544,000
April	829,000	1,110	357,000	--	41,300	515,000
May	917,000	991	384,000	9,800	--	524,000
June	842,000	639	329,000	23,600	--	489,000
July	898,000	779	364,000	--	8,580	543,000
August	895,000	538	306,000	--	1,610	592,000
September	853,000	837	370,000	2,410	--	481,000
October	870,000	NA	NA	--	14,700	NA
January-September	7,750,000	6,950	3,070,000	1,750	--	4,690,000

NA Not available. -- Zero.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Production plus imports minus exports plus or minus stock changes.